tribal artefacts and promotion of tribal culture. A provision of Rs. 2.60 crore has been kept under the scheme for the year 2005-06.

ST status to tea garden labour community in Assam

1319. SHRI SILVIUS CONDPAN: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

whether there is a proposal for granting ST status to the Adivasis (Tea Garden Labour Community) and Koch-Rajbanshis of Assam; and

if so, whether there is any Bill proposed to be tabled in the current Winter Session of the Parliament?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PR. KYNDIAH): (a) Yes, Sir. The approved modalities for inclusion/exclusion of any community in the list of Scheduled Tribes under Article 342 of the Constitution require consultation with various agencies such as State Government, Registrar General of India and National Commission for Scheduled Tribes, which takes time.

(b) No, Sir.

Deaths due to malnutrition in tribal areas

1320.SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

whether Government are aware of the death of thousands of children in the tribal areas of various States, especially Maharashtra due to malnutrition related problems;

if so, the details thereof including the number of such deaths in tribal areas, reported during the last three years, State-wise and year-wise;

the action taken for controlling the above; and

whether any policy decision has been taken or proposed to be taken to save tribal children from this complex situation?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PR. KYNDIAH): (a) and (b) The figures relating to death of children due to malnutrition, if any, in various regions including tribal regions of a State/UT, are maintained by the concerned State/UT Governments. The deaths of children, including tribals, due to various factors, including malnutrition, in Melghat and